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Rural District of Morpeth



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

for the Year

1957

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of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1957

To the Chairman and Members of the Morpeth
Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1957.

The vital statistics are quite satisfactory. The total number of births increased by 37 and this gives a standard birth rate of 18.71 compared with a rate of 16.59 in 1956 and an average of 16.6 for England and Wales in 1957.

The total number of deaths was 189, giving a standard death rate of 12.97; which is almost exactly the same as in 1956, and only very slightly higher than the corresponding figure for England and Wales.

The number of infant deaths was 8, the same as in the previous year, but owing to the increase in the total number of births, the infantile mortality rate decreased from 28.37 per 1,000 live births in 1956, to 25.08 in 1957. Unfortunately there were 11 stillbirths as against 5 in 1956.

It is pleasant to record a marked decline in the number of new notified cases of tuberculosis; 7 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory as against 10 respiratory and 5 non-respiratory cases in the previous year.

I should like to thank Councillors for the continuing consideration they have shown me, and the Public Health Inspectors for their ready response to any request for assistance. I have, also, had from other departments of the Council, willing co-operation which I have greatly appreciated.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR,
M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health
Rural District of Morpeth.



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RURAL DISTRICT OF MORPETH.

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Public Health

Housing Inspector Mr. T. T. WATSON, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Certs.

Meat Meat Inspector's Certs.

Additional Public Health Inspector Mr. W. G. WEBB, R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. Certs.

Meat Inspector's Certs.

Offices of the Rural District CouncilDacre Street, Morpeth.

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SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

There is no change to report in the acreage and boundaries of the Morpeth Rural District but the Registrar-General estimated that the resident population increased by 210 to 18,070 in 1957.

The main industries continued to be coal-mining in the eastern part of the district and agriculture in the remainder.

The problem of providing improved water supplies in sewerage in many parts still inadequately served received much thoughtful consideration during the year but little real progress was made. The scheme for providing sewerage for Cambo village did, however, make some headway and should be completed in 1958.

Area in Acres	79,193
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1957	18,070
Rateable Value	£139,957
One Penny Rate produces	£531-11-9d.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1957)	5,135

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The figures in brackets are the corresponding rates for England and Wales.

Live Births:	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	308	149	159
Illegitimate	11	4	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	319	153	166
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	17.65	(16.6)	
Standard Birth Rate (Comparability factor 1.06 x Crude Birth Rate)	18.71		
 Still Births:	 Total	 Male	 Female
Legitimate	11	5	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11	5	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births	33.33	(22.6)	
Rate per 1,000 of the population	0.61		

DEATHS

Total—189. Male—111. Female—78.

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	10.46	(12.2)
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.24) ...	12.97	
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	Nil	
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	Nil	
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks:	Total	Male Female
Legitimate	5	1 4
 Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:		
All Infants per 1,000 live births	25.08	(25.0)
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	25.97	
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	

The Registrar-General supplies the following:

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1957

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	1
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	4	4
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	1
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	2
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	7	5
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	1
16. Diabetes	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	8	11
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	29	5
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	—
20. Other Heart Diseases	18	18
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	2	4
22. Influenza	1	2
23. Pneumonia	9	1
24. Bronchitis	6	3
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	2	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	5	13
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—
34. All other Accidents	1	3
35. Suicide	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	<hr/> 111	<hr/> 78

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	5
Illegitimate	—	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1957

Cause of Death	Under 1 day	1 - 6 days	1 - 2 weeks	2 - 3 weeks	3 - 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 - 2 mths	3 - 5 mths	6 - 8 mths	9 - 11 mths	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	1	—	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
Meconium Ileus	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital Abnormality	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Total	1	1	3	—	—	5	1	1	1	—	8

The following table shows the comparative mortality rates during the past ten years:

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Enteritis under 2 years	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
Infantile Deaths under 1 year	13	7	12	10	7	5	4	7	8	8
Infantile Mortality	40.60	21.87	40.26	38.02	24.22	16.45	13.75	26.12	28.57	25.08

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the laboratory situated at Newcastle General Hospital. The extent to which the facilities have been utilised is shown below.

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	6	—
General Practitioner	„ „	1	—
General Practitioner	Throat Swabs for C. Diphtheriae	—	32
General Practitioner	Throat Swabs for Haemolytic Strepococci	26	29
Medical Officer of Health	„ „	1	—
General Practitioner	Throat Swabs for Coagulase Staphylococci	6	26
General Practitioner	Throat Swabs for Vincent's Angina ...	1	33
Medical Officer of Health	Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms	—	52
General Practitioner	„ „	—	1
Medical Officer of Health	Food for Food Poisoning Organisms		
	Coagulase Positive Staphylococci	5	2
	Nasal Swabs. Coagulase Pos. Staphy.	4	4
	Hand Swabs. „ „ „ „	1	3
General Practitioner	Faeces for Food Poisoning Organisms. Coagulase Positive Staphylococci	1	—
Regional Hospital Board Physician	Faeces for Sh. Sonnei	6	1

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The ambulance service is provided by Northumberland County Council. Three ambulances and three drivers are stationed at Broomhill where a new depot in Hadstone Road was completed and put into operation during the year.

Other parts of the Rural District are served by ambulances stationed at Ashington and Morpeth.

NURSING IN THE HOME

The domiciliary nursing service is provided by the County Council and nurse-midwives are stationed as follows:

Scotsgap 1 ; Meldon 1 Felton 1 ; Broomhill 2 ; Widdrington 1 ; Lynemouth 1 .

Pegswood, Longhirst, Mitford and Hepscott districts are served by three nurse-midwives based in Morpeth.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

These are provided by the County Council. In 1957 a new centre was completed and opened for use at Hadstone Road, Broomhill, beside the new ambulance station.

Clinics are held at the following places and times:

Infant Welfare Clinics :

Acklington (Aerodrome) alternate Tuesdays. 1.30—4 p.m.

Cambo, Village Hall, Thursday 1.30—4 p.m. at 4 weekly intervals.

Linton, Miner's Welfare, alternate Fridays 9.30—12 noon.

Longhorsley, Rose Cottage, Tuesday 1.30 p.m.—4 p.m. at 4 weekly intervals.

Lynemouth, Methodist Church Hall, alternate Tuesdays 9.30—12 noon, 1.30—4 p.m.

Pegswood, The Old School, alternate Tuesdays 9.30 a.m.—12 noon and 1.30—4 p.m.

South Broomhill, Hadstone Road, every Wednesday 9.30 a.m.—12 noon, 1.30—4 p.m.

Widdrington Social Club, alternate Thursdays 1.30 p.m.—4 p.m.

Toddlers Clinics :

South Broomhill, Hadstone Road, Wednesday, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon at 4 weekly intervals.

Diphtheria Immunisations :

Lynemouth, Methodist Church Hall, Tuesday 1.30—4 p.m. at 4 weekly intervals.

South Broomhill, Hadstone Road, Wednesday 9.30 a.m.—12 noon at 4 weekly intervals.

Ante-Natal Clinics :

Lynemouth, Methodist Church Hall, Tuesday 1.30 p.m.—4 p.m. at 4 weekly intervals.

Acklington (Aerodrome) Tuesday at 4 weekly intervals 1.30—4 p.m.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SAMPLES

Twenty-eight samples of water were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Westgate Road, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination.

The bacteriological results are as follows :

Dates.	Place of Collection.	Coli Aerogenes per 100 ml.
7. 5.57	West Spring No. 1. Eshott Airfield	1
7. 5.57	East Spring No. 2. Eshott Airfield	Nil
7. 5.57	Tap, Farm Cott., Causey Park	Nil
7. 5.57	Shallow Well, Causey Park Bridge	Nil
7. 6.57	Tap, Hartburn School Canteen	Nil
7. 6.57	Tap, Hartburn Vicarage	Nil
7. 6.57	Tap, 4, Hedgehope Terrace, East Chevington	5
7. 6.57	Tap, Stone Row, East Chevington	Nil
19. 6.57	Tap, Bridge End, Thirston, Felton	Nil
19. 6.57	Tap, Hemelspeth Farm, Thirston, Felton	Nil
19. 6.57	Tap, West End, Longhorsley	Nil
19. 6.57	Tap, Linden Square, Longhorsley	Nil
3. 7.57	Tap, Post Office, Middleton Village	180+
3. 7.57	Tap, Dairy, High Angerton, Morpeth	25
3. 7.57	Tap, North Side, Meldon, Morpeth	13
3. 7.57	Tap, Netherwitton	Nil
3. 7.57	Tap, Longwitton	1
3. 7.57	Tap, Hill Top, Longwitton	3
17. 7.57	Tap, Cottage near Hotel, Middleton Village	180+
17. 7.57	Collecting Chamber, Middleton	160
17. 7.57	Well, Middleton Village	10
17. 7.57	Morpeth R.D.C. Main Tap, Oakford, Scotsgap	1 3
23.10.57	Tap, High Angerton, Hartburn	180+
23.10.57	Tap, Hartburn Vicarage	Nil
23.10.57	Tap, Lodge Cottage, Gillyheugh, Longhorsley	1
23.10.57	Tap, The Retreat, East End, Longhorsley	13
6.12.57	Tap, Middleton Village	160
6.12.57	Tap, High Angerton, Hartburn	50

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Cambo.

The works of providing a new sewer for Cambo Village and enlargement of the sewage disposal works at Scotsgap should be completed in the year of 1958. The contract for this work has been accepted.

The following works were undertaken during the year.

Extension of sewer at West Thirston.

New Drains. Ulgham (6) Longhirst (1) Broomhill (1) Angerton High (1) Longhorsley (1)
Edington (1) Mitford (1) Hepscott (1)

New Drains and Septic Tanks:

River Green Kennels (2).

ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

The National Coal Board has carried out repairs to its property at Broomhill, Lynemouth, Linton and Pegswood and many private owners have repaired houses after informal notice.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Several Privy Conversions have been made and W.C.s. have been provided as follows :

Ulgham	6	High Angerton	1
Longhirst	1	Longhorsley	1
Broomhill	1	Edington	1
River Green	2	Mitford	1

SCHOOLS

There are 18 schools in the district and all have a sufficient water supply. At the end of the year two schools, Hepscott and West Thirston, were still without the water carriage system of sanitation. Plans have been submitted for the provision of new conveniences at West Thirston School and these should be completed in the following year.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection and disposal of refuse for the whole area is carried out by the Public Health Department. Four Motor Vehicles, two of 10 cubic yards, one of 12 cubic yards and one of 16/18 cubic yards capacity and one horse with a specially constructed cart are employed in this work. The majority of bins are emptied twice a week.

The number of houses and business premises in the district is 5054 excluding the houses on the R.A.F. station at Acklington and the population is 18,070.

The estimated weight of refuse collected was 9895 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons and the estimated cost per ton for collection and disposal is 20/4d.

The mileage travelled by the four motor vehicles was 32,954 miles.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

New licences granted to station moveable dwellings	3
Renewal licences	1

SITE LICENCES

Number of Licences granted (New)	—
Renewal Licences	1

The Council's Caravan Site at Cresswell continues to be well patronised.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Private houses found to be infested during the year	—
Number of Council houses found to be infested during the year	2
Number of houses disinfected during the year	2

The method employed for the disinfestation of houses is by means of "Zaldecide" both in the liquid and powder form.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The scavenging tips, sewers, disposal works and many inhabited areas, have, during the year, received attention from the Council's Rodent Operator.

Situation of Tips :

Broomhill 1, East Chevington 1, Widdrington 1, Longhirst 1, Pegswood 1, Hepscott 1.
Lynemouth 1, Longhorsley 1.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

There are in the district 33 factories and workshops, and all have mechanical power, the following table gives the number of inspections made during the year.

There are no outworkers in the area.

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	2	29	—	—
ii Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	31	78	—	—
iii Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	33	107	—	—
Total	66	214	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	—	—	—

SECTION D

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR 1957.

Number of New Houses erected during year:

(a) By Local Authority	5
(b) By other bodies or Persons	18

Closing and Demolition.

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	Nil
2. Houses demolished not in clearance Areas	1
3. Houses closed, not demolished	8
4 Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above ...	Nil

Repairs.

Houses made fit by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts:

1. By informal action	32
2. By owners, following statutory notice	3
3. By Local Authority in Default of owners.....	Nil
4. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	Nil

Improvement Grants, Housing Act, 1949.

	No. of Separate houses.
1. Applications submitted to local authority during year	26
2. Applications rejected	Nil
3. Applications approved	26
4. Approximate average grant approved per house	£320
5. Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme	166

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

No. of registered dairies 4

The following is a summary of the bacteriological reports on the samples of milk taken during the year.

Total number of samples taken 19

MILK, 1957

Total number of samples taken 19

Producers inside the Rural District 10

Producers Outside the Rural District 9

1. Farms Inside the Rural District.

Tuberculin Tested 8 samples

5 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

3 samples failed the Methylene Blue Test.

Farms Inside the Rural District.

Undesignated 2 samples

2 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

1 sample was examined for B. Tuberculosis—Negative.

2. Farms Outside the Rural District.

Pasteurised 6 samples

All 6 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

Farms Outside the Rural District.

Tuberculin Tested 2 samples

2 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

FOOD PREMISES

(1) The number of Food premises in the area by type of business is as follows:

Butchers' shops	6	
Bakers	2	
General Dealers	50	Total—58.

(2) The number of Food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Butchers'	5	
Fried Fish shops	4	
Sale of Ice Cream	24	
No. of Registered Dairies	5	Total—38.

(3) The number of inspections of the above Food premises was 550. In a few cases it was found necessary to draw the owner's attention to the 1955 Hygiene Regulations and our requests were complied with without Statutory action.

Meat and Other Foods.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	475	—	—	931	358	—
Number inspected	475	—	—	931	358	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	220	—	—	2	24	—
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	46.315	—	—	.214	6.703	—
Tuberculosis Only.						
Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of No. Inspected affected with Tuberculosis631	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis.						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following foods were surrendered to the Council's Meat and Public Health Inspectors.

		Lbs.	Ozs.
Corned Beef	6 tins	21	—
Bovril Corned Beef	1 tin	—	12
Minced Beef Loaf	5 tins	3	12
Stewed Steak	1 tin	—	15½
Chopped Pork	2 tins	4	12
Chopped Pork and Tongue	1 tin	—	7
Cooked Ham	14 tins	70	9
Luncheon Meat	1 tin	—	12
Tuna Fish	1 tin	—	7
Peas	8 tins	7	12
Carrots	1 tin	1	12
Sliced Beet-root	6 tins	42	—
Tomatoes	41 tins	34	13
Apricots	1 tin	1	14
Grapefruit	3 tins	3	12
Pineapple	9 tins	9	—
Oranges	6 tins	4	2
Pears	8 tins	7	12
Peaches	14 tins	21	9½
Evaporated Milk	3 tins	2	6
Evaporated Milk	5 tins	10 pints	
Evaporated Milk	2 tins	6½ pints	

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

**TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
UNDER AGE GROUPS**

Disease	Age unknown	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25—34 years	35—44 years	45—54 years	55—64 years	65—74 years	75 years & over	Total	Admitted to Hospital
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	5	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	2	—	6	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	5	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	2	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	7	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	—
Measles	2	6	50	64	161	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	302	—
Whooping Cough	—	3	4	4	12	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	—

Measles.

This was the only notifiable infectious disease, prevalent in 1957 and it was confined almost entirely to the eastern part of the area. The Lynemouth, Ellington and Cresswell district was the first to be affected. Altogether there were 108 cases in this area and of these 99 occurred before the end of March, during which month the disease spread to the Widdrington area where there were 29 cases notified in March and 5 in April. The disease continued its northward spread and reached the Red Row, East Chevington and Broomhill area where 62 cases occurred in June, before the epidemic finally subsided in August.

There were no deaths.

Food Poisoning.

The three cases of food poisoning were all connected with an outbreak of food poisoning which occurred on 7th September. The first news of this came from a general practitioner in another area who had been called in the evening to see three people who were suffering from symptoms of food poisoning and who had that day attended a wedding reception in the Morpeth Rural District. These victims lived outside the Morpeth Rural District and had returned home before the onset of symptoms. They were, therefore, not notified in the Morpeth Rural District.

On Sunday morning 8th September, the Medical Officer of Health visited the bride's home and found that two people in the house and a relative living nearby had also been affected.

The average interval between the ingestion of the meal and the onset of the symptoms was 3 hours. This suggested the presence of a pre-formed toxin.

The meal had consisted of ham, tongue, tinned chicken, sausage rolls, pease pudding, lettuce, tomato, cucumber, trifle with fresh whipped cream and fancy cakes. The ham had been collected on Wednesday 4th September by a member of the household and it stood in the scullery till it was boiled on the Thursday. It remained in the scullery until the Friday night when it was sliced by this same person, who again left it, at room temperature, until it was taken to the reception on the Saturday. It had, therefore, been kept for two nights in the scullery, after being boiled. All cooking is done in this scullery and the temperature there must have been quite high.

The person who was responsible for collecting, boiling and slicing the ham seemed to have played a major part in all the preparations for the meal.

The tongue was boiled and pressed by a local butcher and the trifles, sausage rolls and cream cakes were supplied by a baker. The trifles were made on the Thursday, the cream was added on the Friday and then they, and freshly made sausage rolls, were put in trays in the baker's van and left there overnight, for delivery on the Saturday morning.

No clear evidence could be found implicating any particular item of food. Fortunately, samples were available, of all the food except the chicken, and portions of ham, tongue, pease pudding, sausage rolls and cream cakes were sent for examination. Coagulase positive staphylococci were isolated from all these foods except the cream cake.

Specimens of faeces were obtained from the victims and two of them produced coagulase positive staphylococci.

Nasal swabs were taken from the butcher who prepared the tongue, from the bakery foreman and two bakery assistants and from the member of the family who prepared and sliced the ham. A swab was also taken from a sore on the hand of this last person. Swabs from one bakery assistant, the butcher and the member of the family, including the hand swab all produced coagulase positive staphylococci but subsequent phage-typing showed that only the organisms recovered from the nose and hand of the member of the family were of the same type as those isolated from the food and from the faeces of the victims.

A portion of the tongue had been retained by the butcher and kept in his refrigerator. A specimen of this, sent for examination produced no pathogenic organisms.

The cause of the outbreak was, thus, very clearly established. The item of food which was most at fault was the ham which had been left standing for two nights in a warm room after being cooked and handled by a carrier of the infecting organisms.

This indicates, once again, the extreme care required in dealing with cooked meat which is to be eaten cold and it stresses the danger which can arise when this type of food is handled by anyone with a sore on the hand. A greater use of refrigeration is obviously desirable even in private homes.

Some 28 persons attended the wedding reception and six of them were affected, some quite severely.

Illness of Unidentified Origin.

Early in March a report was received that a number of children at a residential school in the area had developed diarrhoea during the night and four had also vomited.

The symptoms were suggestive of food poisoning but, after detailed inquiries no evidence of this could be discovered.

It was found that the families of some members of the staff had been similarly affected during the previous three weeks and that similar cases had occurred among children attending the near-by village school.

Altogether, 41 specimens were submitted for bacteriological examination and all were negative for organisms of the Dysentery and Food-Poisoning groups.

It may, therefore, be assumed that the illness was not due either to dysentery or to food poisoning and, for want of more definite information must be classified as an outbreak of winter or epidemic vomiting which is presumed to be caused by a virus.

Diphtheria.

For the eighth successive year no case of this disease occurred. Not since 1946 has a death from Diphtheria occurred in the Morpeth Rural District.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year, a primary course of treatment was given to 228 pre-school and 4 school children while 137 pre-school and 157 school children received re-inforcing injections.

It is estimated that at 31.12.57, the immunity indices for the different age groups were as follows:

Children under 1 year	22.73%
Children aged 1—4 years	98.31%
Children aged 5—14 years	67.82%
All children under 15 years	71.66%

The figure for children aged 1—4 years is excellent but percentages for all other age groups are lower than they were at 31.12.56. It was possible to visit only two schools in the Morpeth Rural District in 1957 and this accounts for the lower immunity index for school children. The campaign for immunising children against poliomyelitis was extended during the year and interfered considerably with the diphtheria immunisation programme. While the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme continues to be so extensive and actively implemented it will be extremely difficult if not impossible to maintain the diphtheria immunity indices at their previous level.

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1957.

Age Groups	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Total	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Total
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 4 years	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 14 years	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 24 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 - 34 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 54 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 - 74 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
75 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	3	—	1	8	—	1	—	—	1

There were notified during the year, 7 cases of Respiratory and 1 case of Non-respiratory Tuberculosis, a decrease of 3 and 4, respectively on the corresponding figures for 1956.

There was one death from the respiratory and none from the non-respiratory type of disease. The fatal case occurred in a female of 75 years.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R. D.—0.055 per 1,000.

Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales—0.095 per 1,000.

Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in Morpeth R. D.—Nil.

Death Rate from Non-respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales—0.012 per 1,000.

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS DURING 1957

Site	MALES							FEMALES						
	15-24	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total	5-15	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75+	Total
Abdomen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Stomach	—	1	—	1	—	2	4	—	—	1	1	2	—	4
Liver	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pancreas	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nasal Cavity	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lung & Bronchus	—	2	1	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Oesophagus	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Lymphatic and Haematopoietic System	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
Ovary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Kidney	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rectum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Totals	1	3	3	4	2	5	18	1	1	1	2	7	2	14

Malignant Neoplasms of the Lung and Bronchus.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District 0.332 per 1,000 of the population.

Death Rate in England and Wales 0.426 per 1,000 of the population.

Malignant Neoplasms of All Other Sites.

Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District 1.439 per 1,000 of the population.

Death Rate in England and Wales 1.668 per 1,000 of the population.

Malignant Neoplasms of All Sites.

Total Death Rate in Morpeth Rural District 1.771 per 1,000 of the population.

Total Death Rate in England and Wales ... 2.094 per 1,000 of the population.

